

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DACCA 05028 01 OF 02 081318Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05
L-01 SP-02 EB-04 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IGA-01 IO-06
PM-03 DODE-00 EUR-08 /064 W
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R 080915Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6106
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 DACCA 5028

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PONT PDEV EAID MILI BG CH
SUBJECT: PRC AMBASSADOR RETURNS AMBASSADOR'S CALL

SUMMARY. PRC AMBASSADOR CHUANG YEN AND HIS WIFE PAID A 50-MINUTE COURTESY CALL ON MY WIFE AND ME ON SEPT. 8. CHUANG WAS FRIENDLY AND SUAVE BUT CAUTIOUS IN DISCUSSING SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS.

1. MY WIFE AND I PAID A COURTESY CALL ON PRC AMBASSADOR AND MRS. CHUANG YEN ON DECEMBER 6, 1976, WHEN WE REACHED HIM IN THE NORMAL ORDER OF PRECEDENCE. THE CALL WAS FRIENDLY BUT GENERALLY NON-SUBSTANTIVE, EXCEPT FOR SOME DISCUSSION OF OUR RESPECTIVE ECONOMIC AID PROGRAMS. CHUANG YEN MADE NO MOVE TO RETURN THE CALL BEFORE HE RETURNED TO CHINA IN EARLY JANUARY, IN ADVANCE OF PRESIDENT ZIA'S VISIT TO PEKING. HE EVENTUALLY RETURNED TO DACCA IN MID-JUNE 1977, REPORTEDLY FOLLOWING MEDICAL TREATMENT. (HE TOLD ME ON SEPTEMBER 8 HE HAD BEEN OPERATED ON FOR GASTRIC ULCER.) THOUGH WE TALKED FREQUENTLY AT SOCIAL FUNCTIONS, CHUANG YEN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DACCA 05028 01 OF 02 081318Z

STILL MADE NO MOVE TO RETURN MY CALL PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE FROM DACCA ON CONSULTATION AND LEAVE IN EARLY JULY.

2. I NEXT SAW AMBASSADOR CHUANG AT A DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION ON AUGUST 29, THE DAY OF MY RETURN TO DACCA. HE GREETED ME WARMLY, AND FOLLOWING SEVERAL FURTHER

CONTACTS AT DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS, THE PRC EMBASSY CALLED MY OFFICE SEPTEMBER 6 AND SAID THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS WIFE, MIN TZU-CHIANG, WOULD LIKE TO PAY A JOINT CALL ON US SEPTEMBER 7 OR 8. WE FINALLY AGREED ON COFFEE AT MY RESIDENCE THE MORNING OF THE 8TH.

3. CHUANG AND HIS WIFE ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE WITH THE INEVITABLE INTERPRETER (NOT NEEDED, SINCE CHUANG SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND HIS GETS BY IN HER OWN WAY), AND SPENT FIFTY MINUTES IN A RELAXED DISCUSSION ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE POINTS COVERED.

4. FOLLOWING A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE WEATHER (HOT), CHUANG'S HEALTH (NOW EXCELLENT), AND MUTUAL FRIENDS AT THE UN (WHERE CHUANG SPENT THREE YEARS), I TOLD CHUANG THAT I APPRECIATED HIS CALL AND WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH HIM, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT SEEMED TO ME THAT OUR TWO NATIONS HAD SIMILAR OBJECTIVES IN BANGLADESH IN ASSISTING IN THE NATION'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENSURING THAT NO OTHER GREAT POWER INTERFERED WITH BANGLADESH'S POSITION OF TRUE NON-ALIGNMENT. CHUANG SMILED AND AGREED.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM HIM, I THEN SUMMARIZED OUR FY 77 ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM, EMPHASIZING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 DACCA 05028 01 OF 02 081318Z

ITS CONCENTRATION ON FOOD, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY PLANNING. I NOTED THAT WHILE PL-480 FOOD WAS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, WE STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE EXPANSION OF BANGLADESH'S OWN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. THIS YEAR WE HAD ABUNDANT FOODGRAIN SURPLUSES, BUT THAT MIGHT NOT BE THE CASE A FEW YEARS FROM NOW, AND WE BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT THAT BANGLADESH MOVE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY. I SAID I WAS DISTURBED BY REPORTS, SUCH AS A RECENT ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS ITEM, THAT USE OF HIGH YIELD RICE SEEDS WAS ACTUALLY DECREASING. CHUANG SAID HE FULLY AGREED WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY, ADDED THAT CHINA BELIEVED BETTER UTILIZATION OF WATER RESOURCES WAS THE "KEY" TO EXPANDING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. FOR THIS REASON, CHINA WAS SUPPORTING A SMALL FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT NORTH OF DACCA. ASKED ABOUT TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR BANGLADESHIS IN CHINA IN THE FIELD OF WATER MANAGEMENT, CHUANG SAID THIS IS "UNDER CONSIDERATION."

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PAGE 01 DACCA 05028 02 OF 02 081323Z
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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 DACCA 5028

LIMDIS

6. I SAID AS A RESULT OF ITS OWN EXPERIENCE CHINA WAS UNDOUBTEDLY IN A POSITION TO HELP BANGLADESH IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. I ADDED THAT THIS HELP WAS WELCOMED BY US AND TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE BY OTHER AID DONORS. I NOTED THAT WE HAD EXPERTS IN OUR AID MISSION IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SAID I WOULD BE GLAD TO PUT THEM IN TOUCH WITH CHUANG OR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF IF HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS CERTAIN ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HERE IN DETAIL. CHUANG SAID THE PRC'S ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM WAS DESIGNED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BDG ALONE, BUT THAT HE WOULD KEEP THIS SUGGESTION IN MIND.

7. I THEN SAID BANGLADESHI FRIENDS HAD TOLD ME THAT THE PRC MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WAS GOING WELL, AND THAT THE PROVISION OF F-6S AND ASSISTANCE AT THE JOYDEBPUR ARSENAL WAS MUCH APPRECIATED. CHUANG SAID THE PRC FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HELP BANGLADESH WITH THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN INTERNAL SECURITY, PARTICULARLY SINCE MILITARY AID FROM "OTHER SOURCES"

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DACCA 05028 02 OF 02 081323Z

HAD BECOME A PROBLEM I SAID I UNDERSTOOD THE

PROVISION OF SPARE PARTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION HAD BECOME MOST DIFFICULT. CHUANG AGREED AND SAID THE SOVIETS ATTACHED "CONDITIONS" TO THEIR ASSISTANCE AND TRIED TO "DOMINATE" COUNTRIES SUCH AS BANGLADESH. THE PRC, IN CONTRAST, RESPECTS THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF ALL NATIONS.

8. WHEN I ASKED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED TRADE BETWEEN CHINA AND BANGLADESH, CHUANG SAID THIS WAS UNDER STUDY IN THE WAKE OF THE RECENT PRC TRADE MISSION VISIT. HE THEN TURNED THIS BACK ON ME AND ASKED WHETHER ANY U.S. TRADE MISSIONS HAD VISITED THIS COUNTRY. I SAID WE HAD NOT HAD A FORMAL TRADE MISSION AS SUCH, BUT A NUMBER INDIVIDUAL U.S. BUSINESSMEN HAD VISITED BANGLADESH TO STUDY POSSIBILITIES FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE MORE STABLE ATMOSPHERE WHICH EXISTED TODAY. CHUANG AGREED THAT CONDITIONS WERE MORE STABLE BUT SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION WAS NOT SATISFACTORY.

9. THE DISCUSSION ENDED ON A FRIENDLY NOTE AND WE AGREED THAT WE OULD SEE EACH OTHER FROM TIME TO TIME. WHETHER CHUANG HAS IN MIND CONTACT AT LARGE DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS OR SOMETHING MORE IS UNCERTAIN AT THIS POINT, AND I DID NOT PRESS HIM ON IT.

10. COMMENT: I UNDERSTAND CHINESE AMBASSADORS DO NOT, AS A RULE, RETURN DIPLOMATIC CALLS. I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHETHER CHUANG'S ACTION IS AN EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE, OR WHETHER THE RULE IS CHANGING IN OTHER AREAS AS WELL. DURING THE CALL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DACCA 05028 02 OF 02 081323Z

CHUANG WAS FRIENDLY, POLITE AND SOPHISTICATED. AT THE SAME TIME, HE WAS CAUTIOUS AND SOMEWHAT RESERVED IN DISCUSSING SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS WITH ONE EXCEPTION. HE SPARKED QUICKLY TO MY CAUTIOUS FORAYS ON THE ROLE OF THE SOVIET UNION HERE. IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS ANY INSTRUCTIONS ON THE HANDLING OF CHUANG, THESE WOULD BE MOST WELCOME. MEANWHILE, I WILL PLAY THIS OUT AND SEE WHAT, IF ANYTHING, DEVELOPS.

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